

Obtaining information from eyewitnesses : effects of retrieval support in eyewitness interviews

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Propositions of the thesis

Obtaining information from eyewitnesses: Effects of retrieval support in eyewitness interviews

1. It's not enough to point to the fallibility of eyewitnesses. Rather, research needs to show what can be done to improve eyewitness accounts. (this thesis)
2. Recall performance does not depend on whether an interview is conducted orally or in writing. Therefore, the police should consider the witnesses' preference for the interview modality. (this thesis)
3. Although the Self-Administered Interview is a sound tool for many witnesses, it is not suitable for all witnesses. (this thesis)
4. Police officers rely on serious misconceptions about human memory, which lead them to underestimate witnesses' credibility. (this thesis)
5. The frequent emergence of reminiscence suggests that, for optimal results, every witness should be interviewed twice. (this thesis)
6. The scientific community is hypocritical when it comes to null results: Although their publication is highly encouraged, researchers have a hard time getting them published.
7. "The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe it." Neil deGrasse Tyson
8. "Science must begin with myths and with the criticism of myths." Karl Popper
9. Introducing new interview tools, such as the Self-Administered Interview, to the field requires stamina. It certainly takes longer than completing a PhD project.
10. "A vital ingredient of success is not knowing that what you're attempting can't be done. A person ignorant of the possibility of failure can be a half-brick in the path of the bicycle of history." Terry Pratchett, *Equal Rites*
11. Exposing yourself to the Texas Hill Country can significantly reduce your stress levels during a PhD project.

Alana C. Krix
Maastricht, February 2015